

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all previous versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A conjugate comprising a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and a constituent or constituents selected from the group consisting of: (1) a single poly(ethylene glycol) group having an overall molecular weight of from about 30 to about 40 kDa, and (2) two poly(ethylene glycol) groups having an overall molecular weight of from about 30 to about 40 kDa.

11. (previously presented) The conjugate according to claim 10, wherein the single poly(ethylene glycol) group is a branched poly(ethylene glycol) group.

12. (previously presented) The conjugate according to claim 10, wherein the two poly(ethylene glycol) groups are branched poly(ethylene glycol) groups.

13. (previously presented) The conjugate according to claim 10, wherein only one of the two poly(ethylene glycol) groups is a branched poly(ethylene glycol) group.

14. (currently amended) A conjugate according to claim 10 wherein the polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 is linked to one or two poly(ethylene glycol) groups by a member selected from the group consisting of: (1) cysteine 110; (2) cysteine 117; and (3) cysteine 110 and cysteine 117 of the polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.

15. (currently amended) A conjugate comprising a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and a constituent or constituents selected from the group consisting of: (1) a single poly(ethylene glycol) group having an overall molecular weight of from about 30 to about 40 kDa, and (2) two poly(ethylene glycol) groups having an overall molecular weight of from about 30 to about 40 kDa, produced by a process comprising reacting a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 with activated (polyethylene) glycol under conditions such that said (polyethylene) glycol is chemically bound to said polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 by primary amino groups or thiol groups of the polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.

16. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the conjugate of claim 10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 17. (canceled)